



Pictured left to right: Couple dressed in early 20th century costume stroll along the streets of Deerfield Village. Try your hand at glassblowing at the Glass Shop. Children watch a demonstration of "job printing" at the Greenfield Village Print Shop. Hop aboard an authentic Model T. Photos courtesy of Mira Temkin.

Watch *"History in the Streets"* Come Alive at Greenfield Village, Detroit

By Mira Temkin

Imagine what living in America was like some one hundred years ago. Now try explaining to your kids that the Model T was just being invented, not all homes had telephones, let alone

cell phones, and television was a mere idea on the drawing board. But just five hours from Chicago is a place that lets you share almost 200 years of American history with your family.

The Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan is the world's premiere history destination. This National Historic Landmark, with five distinct attractions, fascinates and inspires more than a million

and a half visitors every year.

Relive the sights, sounds and tastes of America's past:

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Long before historic re-enactments became popular, Henry Ford had his own vision of how future generations should discover the American experience. His idea was to create a place that would celebrate the spirit of American innovation.

One of the five attractions at The Henry Ford is Greenfield Village. With more than 83 authentic, historic structures and four living history farms, you can ride through the streets and get a feel for a kinder, gentler America. In many of the buildings, you'll find artisans creating unique 19th - 20th century pottery, glass and tin. For families, this is a chance to discover America together and create memories that your kids will always remember.

I had an opportunity to spend some time at Greenfield Village last summer and was absolutely captivated by this charming experience. Part of my pleasure was seeing children in front of a printing press, staring with utter amazement as they watched a historian drop each letter into the galley and create a poster. "Type," they said. "What's that?" "Do you mean you have to print them one at a time?"

You'll have a chance to explore the Wright Brothers Bicycle Shop where Orville and Wilbur invented their ground-breaking flying machine. See Noah Webster's study filled with books that inspired his first dictionary of the American language. Kids and adults alike will be fascinated by Edison's Menlo Park, New Jersey Laboratory, where they'll watch a demonstration of Edison's first "sound machine that recreated the human voice." Teens will certainly get a new appreciation of their I-Pods and the early technology is sure to pave the way for some interesting family discussions.

As you walk along Main Street, you'll pass costumed couples on a stroll, see people riding high-wheeler bicycles and hear a barber-shop quartet crooning on the Village Green. Don't miss watching a real baseball game played by 1867 rules. Try your own hand at glass-blowing. The whole family can ride

on a genuine Model T, horse-drawn buggy or board a historic 19th century steam engine. For the little ones, playing with old-fashioned hoops and riding atop the majestically-restored Hershell-Spillman Carousel is pure magic.

When it's time to eat, take the family to an authentic sit-down meal at Eagle Tavern, a former Michigan stagecoach stop. As you enter, you'll notice today's date, but the year is 1863. The meal is served by friendly, costumed wait staff that are eager to share their stories. As Agnes brought out the chicken fricassee, she told me it was Abraham Lincoln's favorite dish. Their wide menu includes squash soup, potato and cheese pie and bean stew. For those with less adventurous appetites, there's always dressed macaroni, corn muffins and chicken croquette. Interestingly, the tables seat eight and in typical 19th-century style, we sat with other diners. Back then, travelers could share the news with others heading in the opposite direction.

The other four attractions in the Henry Ford complex include the Henry Ford Museum, IMAX Theatre, Ford Rouge Factory Tour and the Benson Ford Research Center. The IMAX theatres show the latest films in 3-D, while the Ford Rouge Factory tour lets you watch as an F-150 truck is assembled in this "green friendly" plant. Among the thousands of exhibits at the Henry Ford, what stood out for me were the 1961 Lincoln Continental that President Kennedy rode in when he was assassinated, Rosa Parks' bus, where she refused to give up her seat and the rocking chair from Ford Theatre where President Lincoln was sitting when he was shot.

Plan on taking at least two days to explore Greenfield Village and at least one more day for the Henry Ford Museum.

For more information, visit www.thehenryford.org, www.greenfieldvillage.org and www.visitdetroit.com.



Photo courtesy of www.thehenryford.org.

If you're interested in going, here are some sample vacation packages:

TownePlace Suites by Marriott – Dearborn
313.271.0200
www.marriott.com/dtwttd
Just 3 miles from The Henry Ford.
Family package includes four tickets to two attractions, starting at \$238 for a two-bedroom studio.

Comfort Inn & Suites of Taylor
313.292.6730
www.comfortinn.com/hotel/mi189

The Henry Ford package includes tickets (Family Package 4 tickets to two attractions) plus free courtesy shuttle to/from The Henry Ford and hot deluxe breakfast, starting at \$165.99.

A Victory Inn
313.565.7250
www.victoryhotelsinternational.com
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